

PATENT

Atty. Dkt. No. 2000-0351

REMARKS

In view of the following discussion, the Applicants submit that none of the claims now pending in the application are anticipated or obvious under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103. Thus, the Applicants believe that all of these claims are now in allowable form.

I. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-3, 6-8 AND 11-12 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 6-8 and 11-12 in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Brendel (US Patent 6,772,333, issued August 3, 2004, hereinafter referred to as "Brendel").

Responsive to the Examiner, Applicants herein cancel claims 1-3, 6-8 and 11-12 without prejudice. The rejection is now moot. However, Applicants reserve the right to file one or more continuation applications to continue prosecution of these canceled claims.

II. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 9-10 AND 15-16 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected claims 9-10 and 15-16 in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over Brendel in view of Oki et al. (US Patent 6,735,206, issued May 11, 2004, hereinafter referred to as "Oki").

Responsive to the Examiner, Applicants herein cancel claims 9-10 and 15-16 without prejudice. The rejection is now moot. However, Applicants reserve the right to file one or more continuation applications to continue prosecution of these canceled claims.

III. ALLOWED SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner has objected to claims 4-5 and 13-14 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated claims 4-5 and 13-14 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, Applicants herein amend claims 4-5 and 13-14 into allowable form as suggested by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully request the objection be withdrawn and request allowance of these claims.

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CONCLUSION

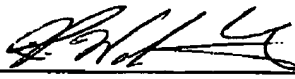
Thus, the Applicants submit that all of these claims now fully satisfy the requirement of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103. Consequently, the Applicants believe that all these claims are presently in condition for allowance. Accordingly, both reconsideration of this application and its swift passage to issue are earnestly requested.

If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues requiring the issuance of a final action in any of the claims now pending in the application, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Mr. Kin-Wah Tong, Esq. at (732) 530-9404 so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

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